

House Resolution No. 2923

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize an outstanding Missouri resident who has long distinguished himself as a leader of his community; and

Whereas, William W. "Bill" Gratz of Jefferson City, Missouri, is to be commended for the years of insurmountable service he has provided to the citizenry of mid Missouri and the Cole County community through the important roles he has played as a realtor, auctioneer, and dedicated public servant; and

Whereas, born in Tuscumbia on August 31, 1949, Bill Gratz received his education at St. Francis Xavier Grade School, Helias High School, Weaver School of Real Estate, and Capital Business College, and began his real estate career as a realtor with Robert E. Pratt in September of 1970, only three weeks after turning twenty-one; and

Whereas, a 1972 graduate of Reinch Auction College in Mason City, Iowa, Bill Gratz developed an interest in auctioneering that came from his father, the late Robert E. Gratz, who began the family auction tradition in 1949 that continued until his death in 2001, and has been carried on by Bill's son, Craig William Gratz; and

Whereas, in 1978, Gratz Real Estate and Auctioneering was established, placing a full service real estate and auctioneering business under one roof; and

Whereas, a strong Democrat and Osage Democratic County Committeeman for Osage Township, Bill Gratz served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 1992 to 2002, where he was awarded the Associated Industries of Missouri Voice of Missouri Business Award, Missouri Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Enterprise Award, National Federation of Independent Business Guardian Business Award, the Missouri Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award, and the Christian Coalition Support of the Unborn Award; and

Whereas, Bill Gratz has been abundantly blessed with the love and admiration of a wonderful family whose members include his devoted wife of thirty-eight years, Nancy Gratz; his son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Jayne Gratz; his daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Greg Sandbothe; his daughter and special friend, Kristi Gratz and Kyle Cross; and his four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Bill Gratz at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for William W. "Bill" Gratz.

Offered by _____
Representative Sara Lampe
District No. 138

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2923, adopted May 8, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker